



## Editorial

Since its foundation in 1987 by Professor James Bezdek, the International Journal of Approximate Reasoning has played a pivotal role as a reference publication in the field of uncertain reasoning. It has contributed to the structuring and unifying of this domain, as well as bridging the gap between various theoretical and practical approaches. In 1993, Piero Bonissone became the Editor-in-Chief and gave a new impetus to the journal, in particular by putting special emphasis on the need to integrate various paradigms (such as fuzzy systems, probabilistic reasoning, neural networks and evolutionary computation) inside hybrid systems in order to get closer to human-like reasoning and problem-solving capabilities. This orientation was reflected by the journal subtitle “Soft Computing in Recognition and Search”.

After thirteen years of tireless dedication to the journal, Dr. Bonissone, who is facing growing professional responsibilities, has decided to resign from his position of Editor-in-Chief, while still remaining on the Editorial Board. On behalf of all the editors, the Publisher, as well as the numerous readers of the International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, I sincerely thank Dr. Bonissone for all his achievements with this journal as well as for ensuring a smooth transition, and I hope that he will continue to give us the benefit of his experience.

As newly appointed main editor, my ambition is to strengthen the role of the International Journal of Approximate Reasoning as a scientific forum for the discussion of both theoretical foundations and real-world applications of all theories of uncertainty in the widest sense. Since the foundation of the journal, many approaches to uncertainty management, such as graphical probabilistic models, rough sets, imprecise probabilities and belief functions have undergone considerable development. The International Journal of Approximate Reasoning should more than ever reflect this diversity and stimulate the debate between the various scientific communities involved, which now often have separate meetings and publications.

To better reflect the growing diversity of the field, the Editorial Board has been restructured by introducing the concept of area editors. The field of uncertain reasoning has been divided into six subfields, each covered by an area editor. The role of the area editors will be crucial for maintaining the high scientific standard of the journal. The editorial board has also been extended to include a greater number of regular editors, whose role will be to assist in the refereeing process of papers covering topics for which they are recognized experts.

36 The renewal of the editorial board coincides with the implementation of the Elsevier  
37 Editorial System, a web-based system with full online submission, review and status up-  
38 date capabilities. At the time of this writing, this system is being customized for IJAR,  
39 and is expected to become operational in the coming weeks. This new organization will  
40 allow us to decrease the average length of the refereeing process, thus providing an im-  
41 proved service to the scientific community.

42 I wish to thank all the people who have offered part of their time to maintaining the  
43 high standards in the future, especially the new Area Editors, and the Editorial Board  
44 at large. I also thank the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society (NAF-  
45 IPS) and its president, Professor Witold Pedrycz, for their continued support, as well as  
46 the Society for Imprecise Probability: Theories and Applications (SIPTA), with which a  
47 fruitful collaboration has been established. I also wish to thank the Publisher, Zeger Kar-  
48 sen, whose help and availability during the transition period has been greatly appreciated.  
49 Finally, I hope that the readers will continue to enjoy reading the International Journal of  
50 Approximate Reasoning, and I thank them in advance for continuing to submit their  
51 important work to this journal.

52 *Thierry Denoeux*

53 In 1993, when I was asked by Professor James Bezdek to take over the editorship of the  
54 International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, I accepted without hesitation. IJAR  
55 was already a unique forum, open to researchers in uncertainty management of all persua-  
56 sions, ranging from probabilistic approaches (Bayesian, Imprecise Probability, and Demp-  
57 ster-Shafer), to fuzzy and possibilistic approaches, multi-valued logics, etc. During these  
58 years, I tried to expand the scope of the journal to include soft computing search methods  
59 (evolutionary, and neural), which allowed for the construction of synergistic hybrid rea-  
60 soning systems. These efforts resulted in the creation of numerous highly cited special is-  
61 sues devoted to such hybrid systems.

62 After thirteen years, I am proud of the direction taken by IJAR. For this reason I want  
63 to thank the authors, who submitted excellent articles, and the reviewers, who provided  
64 valuable feedback and comments. As my professional responsibilities demand more of  
65 my time, I am very grateful to Prof. Thierry Denoeux for helping during this year with  
66 the transition of the IJAR editorship. I am also extremely confident that IJAR will con-  
67 tinue in the future with its tradition of quality and innovation under Professor Denoeux's  
68 leadership.

69 *Piero P. Bonissone*

70 Thierry Denoeux  
71 Piero P. Bonissone